

### **REMARKS**

Claims 2-6 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been cancelled in order to advance prosecution on the merits. New claims 7-9 have been added in order to provide adequate coverage for applicant's contribution to the art.

Each of claims 2 and 4-6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New dependent claims 7-9 recite the limitations of original claim 3, and further limit each of the present independent claims 2 and 4-6. Each of the foregoing amendments is clearly supported by the original specification. Consequently, no new matter has been added.

Applicant's invention discloses a moisture resistant rustproof smart hanger system that provides a set of plastic spindles or thumb wheels permanently attached to a hanger. The spindles are designed to record, for a particular garment, the last cleaned date, the number of times worn, and the last worn date. A user sets the "Last Cleaned" date when a garment or apparel is first placed on the smart hanger; the "Times Worn" indicator is set to 01. The user updates the dates on the "Times Worn" and "Last Worn" record indicators each time the garment or apparel is worn. Each of the thumb wheels is locked by friction or a spring loaded bar that engages teeth on the thumb wheels to prevent accidental rotation.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stutzman (USP 4,886,010).

Stutzman discloses a garment wear monitor for recording the number of times an article of clothing is worn. The monitor is removably or permanently affixed to a clothing hanger, or is removably affixed to the garment directly. Each time the garment is worn the garment wear monitor is advanced by one number manually or automatically. The garment wear monitor may also display the date on which the garment was last cleaned. A threshold indicator serves to remind the user to have the garment cleaned when a predetermined number of wearings have taken place. The garment wear monitor may display the number of wearings and the date of last cleaning by a mechanically movable scale or by an electronic digital display.

In view of the cancellation of claim 1 and the amendment of claim 3 (to depend from present claim 2), it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 as being obvious over Stutzman has been rendered moot.


Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stutzman is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2 and 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the present amendments to the claims, it is submitted that present claims 2 and 4-6 are in proper form for allowance.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in allowable condition. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 3, and its allowance, together with present claims 2 and 4-9, are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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